

SELF-THAWING FUEL CELL**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Electrical resistance heating elements recessed in the terminal plates, or the cell end plates, of a fuel cell stack at the interfaces therebetween are energized by electricity generated by the stack to heat the end cells during start-up of a frozen stack. The flow of current in the heating elements is ended when the temperature of the end cell(s) reach(es) a prescribed above-freezing temperature.